

**A RESOLUTION**

**05-*ℓ*-0682**

**BY PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 TO CONTINUE HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES IN THE VINE CITY/ENGLISH AVENUE AREAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta Police Department received Byrne Discretionary Grant funding in June, 2002 to implement a comprehensive program to reduce homicides and violent crime in the Vine City/English Avenue community, based on recommendations contained in a study conducted by the Emory University Center for Injury Control, and

**WHEREAS**, one strategy that proved very effective in reducing violent crime in that community was an intensified housing code enforcement program, directed toward eliminating substandard structures in the area, and

**WHEREAS**, the funding from the Byrne Grant has been expended and additional code enforcement action is required to complete the crime reduction initiative in that community, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Justice presently has funding available from the Project Safe Neighborhoods program to continue operation of strategies that have proven effective in reducing crime,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**Section one:** that the Mayor is hereby authorized to apply for and accept a grant from the United States Department of Justice in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to continue operation of the grant funded code enforcement program and continue overtime pay for crime analysts and Investigators to conduct intensified enforcement operations at high crime hot spots.

**Section two:** that the Mayor is authorized to execute all related grant agreements and that no match is required as part of this program.

# ***Legislative White Paper***

**Committee of Purview: Public Safety and Legal Administration**

**Caption A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**Council Meeting Date: May 2, 2005**

**Legislation Title: FY 2005 Project Safe Neighborhoods grant**

**Requesting Dept.: Police**

**Contract Type: Grant**

**Source Selection: Not applicable**

**Bids/Proposals Due: Not applicable**

**Invitations Issued: Not applicable**

**Number of Bids/ Not applicable**

**Proposals Received: Not applicable**

**Bidders/Proponents: Not applicable**

**Justification Statement:** The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia has informed the Police Grants Manager that funding will be available this year to continue and enhance strategies that have proven successful as tools for reducing crime. Since June 1, 2002, the Atlanta Police Department has been operating a comprehensive violent crime reduction program in the Vine City/English Avenue community. This program includes intensive enforcement and directed patrol by Atlanta Police Officers in cooperation with ATF agents to detect and apprehend convicted felons carrying firearms in the subject community. These gun carrying felons are then referred to the U. S. Attorney's Office for prosecution under the FACE FIVE program. The FACE FIVE program is an initiative of the U. S. Department of Justice to provide federal prosecution of felons carrying firearms. These prosecutions result in a minimum of five years in federal prison for those convicted. This intensive surveillance and prosecution program is coupled with grant funded state probation and parole officers who offer increased supervision of probationers and parolees who live in the community. Further, the strategy includes grant funded code enforcement officers who intensify code enforcement activities

in the community to remove blighted properties, consistent with the "broken windows" theory that neighborhoods that physically appear blighted and neglected attract crime and criminals. This new grant will allow the City to continue the code enforcement and police directed patrol for one more year. Continuation of this program, which has resulted in dramatic reduction of handgun related crime and a double digit overall decrease in violent crime, will allow the City to further reduce crime in the community.

**Background:** In the summer of 1998, the Atlanta Police Department received a federal grant from the U. S. Department of Justice to study violent crime in the City and make recommendations as to approached to take to reverse the violent crime rate. The grant funded study, conducted by Dr. Arthur Kellermann at the Emory University Center for Injury Prevention found the following common factors related to violent crime:

- Geography. Violent crime tended to be concentrated in hot spots readily definable as high crime areas.
- Career criminals. Much of the City's violent crime was being committed by repeat offenders who either evaded apprehension or simply returned to a life of crime upon completing their prison sentences.
- Firearms. The weapon of choice among violent criminals was the firearm.
- Broken windows. Neighborhoods suffering from unusually high rates of crime were more often characterized by the presence of numerous substandard buildings. Criminals see that a neighborhood appears to be run down and that nobody cares about it and then move their base of operations into that area.

**Fund Account Center:** To be assigned by the Department of Finance upon award of the grants.

**Source of Funds:** U.S. Department of Justice

**Fiscal Impact:** None, 100% grant funded

**Term of Contract:** One year

**Method of Cost Recovery:** Not applicable

**Approvals:**

DOF:

DOL:

**Prepared By:** Dan Boozer

**Contact Number:** (404) 817 - 6782